

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration, reexamination, and allowance of the present patent application are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Summary of Office Action

In the Office Action, beginning at page 2, Claims 251-255, 257-259, 263-268, 270-271 and 280 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,895,515 to Ishikawa *et al.* ("Ishikawa").

In the Office Action, beginning at page 4, Claims 260-262 and 269 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishikawa in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,761,170 to Mansfield ("Mansfield").

Summary of Response to Office Action – Allowable Subject Matter

In Response to the October 26, 2009 Office Action, Applicant hereby amends claim 251 to include the allowable subject matter of claim 256. Accordingly, claims 109-122, 128-135 and 241-281 are currently pending, claims 1-108, 123-127, and 136-240 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and all claims should be in immediate form for allowance per the Final Office Action.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

In the Office Action, beginning at page 2, Claims 251-255, 257-259, 263-268, 270-271 and 280 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,895,515 to Ishikawa *et al.* ("Ishikawa"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and requests reconsideration for the following reasons.

Claim 251 has been amended to include the allowable features of claim 256. Accordingly, claim 251 and dependent claims 252-255, 257-259, 263-268, 270-271 and 280 should now all be considered immediately allowable. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that

the rejection of claims 251-255, 257-259, 263-268, 270-271 and 280 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In the Office Action, beginning at page 4, Claims 260-262 and 269 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishikawa in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,761,170 to Mansfield ("Mansfield"). This rejection is respectfully traversed, and Applicant requests reconsideration for at least the following reasons.

Claim 251 has been amended to include the allowable features of claim 256. Accordingly, claim 260-262 and 269 which depend from claim 251 should now all be considered immediately allowable. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 260-262 and 269 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Conclusion


Applicant respectfully submits that the present patent application is in condition for allowance. An early indication of the allowability of this patent application is therefore respectfully solicited.

If the patent Examiner believes that a telephone conference with the undersigned would expedite passage of this patent application to issue, he is invited to call on the number below.

It is not believed that extensions of time are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in accompanying documents. If, however, additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge fees

necessitated by this paper, and to credit all refunds and overpayments, to our Deposit Account listed on Applicant's initial application filing transmittal document.

Respectfully submitted,
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